

## Greetings FHI Stakeholders!

See below for updates, announcements and save the dates from the Family Homelessness Initiative.

### INITIATIVE NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

#### FHI ADVISORY GROUP – NEWS & UPDATES:

The Family Homelessness Advisory Group held its first meeting in August. The role of the Advisory Group is to advance, guide and monitor the work of the Family Homelessness Initiative. More specifically, the group will assess the implementation of the Initiative's key system change areas and review and assess data to evaluate progress. The Advisory Group is co-chaired by Ann Levine with Imagine Housing and Lisa Wolters with Seattle Housing Authority. The Advisory Group consists of community partners, funders, and field experts from diverse geographic locations, agencies, and specialties. In addition, to include input from additional stakeholders, there will be various opportunities for involvement (e.g. monthly stakeholder information sessions, ad hoc workgroups, and strategic outreach to community meetings, such as sub regional homeless/human services meetings). The Advisory Group operates in an advisory function and reports to the CEHKC Interagency Council. The first meeting focused on understanding the background and history of FHI's work up to now and the current priorities/projects that we are working on, as well as establishing the group vision and goals. The next meeting is scheduled for early September and will be held bi-monthly going forward. The charter, agenda and meeting summaries will be available on our website.

#### IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES - NEWS & UPDATES:

##### *System Realignment Work*

On Friday, August 22, time-limited homeless housing programs were invited to attend the **System Realignment Learning Opportunity** hosted by the Family Homelessness Initiative and Building Changes. During this meeting, Initiative and Building Changes staff reviewed:

- System Realignment efforts;
- Implementation efforts and timelines for both the first group of agencies undertaking realignment and the incremental changes all other time-limited agencies will be asked to participate in;
- Technical assistance, peer learning, and potential funds available to support system realignment strategies;
- Second installments of WFF Systems Innovation Capacity Building Grants.

Click [here](#) to see the PowerPoint from the learning opportunity. Additionally, Capacity Building Grant recipients will receive further information regarding the Capacity Building Grants in the near future.

If you are interested in learning more about System Realignment, please visit the [FHI website](#).

##### *Coordinated Entry Updates*

Katharine Gale, our CEA system consultant, completed her first site visit to King County this week. The focus of this first visit was to gain a better understanding of the CEA 'system', the agencies participating, and the organizations who are funding the process. She was able to meet with a group of funders, the CEH data and evaluation staff, FHC assessment and referral teams, as well as observe the appointment scheduling process at 2-1-1 and a Diversion Pilot learning circle.

Her next visit will be at the end of September/beginning of October and will include several small group meetings with specific populations, client focus groups, and some individual provider meetings. Further details on her upcoming visit will be posted on our website soon.

If you have any questions about the process, please feel to contact Michelle Valdez at [michelle.valdez@cehkc.org](mailto:michelle.valdez@cehkc.org).

## OPPORTUNITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### UPCOMING FUNDING OR TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

#### ***Webinar: Family Connection: Tailored Interventions and Assistance***

On September 10, 2014, two community partners will join USICH and HUD on a live webinar to share examples of how they are using a range of resources and program models to better serve families in need of a safe and stable place to call home. Katie Kitchin, Executive Director of Memphis, TN-based Community Alliance for the Homeless, Inc., and Gwen McQueeney, Deputy Director of Shelter and Rapid Re-Housing for Northern Virginia Family Service will discuss their most effective strategies for helping to lift families out of homelessness, as well as prevention methods that help avert housing crises. This is the second informational webinar in a series on building systems to end family homelessness.

Register at <https://www4.gotomeeting.com/register/271649799>

#### ***Online Training Course: Trauma-Informed Care: Applying Theory to Practice***

Join t3 on September 11 for this online course to learn more about implementing trauma-informed practices. Click [here](#) for more information or contact them at [info@thinkt3.com](mailto:info@thinkt3.com) or (617) 467-6014.

#### ***Upcoming Event: Free workshop on hiring and workplace etiquette***

Click [here](#) for more information on this free opportunity - Join MCS and a panel of experts for an informational session regarding hiring, workplace etiquette, and how to be employable on Sept. 17 from 11am to 1pm at Federal Way MSC 1200 S. 336<sup>th</sup> St, Federal Way 98003

#### ***The first story from the Storycorp Finding Our Way: Puget Sound Stories about Family Homelessness project broadcast on August 22nd***

On August 22<sup>nd</sup>, KPLU shared the story of Kris and Erika who shared their story about living out of their car after their family became homeless. This Seattle mother and daughter had the opportunity to tell their story as part of the "Finding Our Way" project, which is focused on recording the stories of homeless and formerly homeless families in the Puget Sound region through a collaboration of StoryCorps, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle University, Catholic Community Services of Western Washington and YWCA Seattle | King | Snohomish. The project has collected more than 80 stories from the three counties so far. Click [here](#) to see the story.

#### ***ANNOUNCEMENT: Short-term Food Stamp Cut for some households in November and December***

Click [here](#) for more information on the short-term cut in Food Stamps for some households in November and December 2014.

Ways community organizations can help families navigate this confusing change

- Emphasize that the benefit loss is for two months only. Families should contact DSHS if they do not receive two benefit deposits in January 2015.
- Ask whether the household has separate utility bills that they pay each month. If so, urge them to contact DSHS immediately to provide this information so they will continue to qualify for higher benefits with NO months of reduced benefits.

- Encourage new applicants for Basic Food to let their caseworker know if they have separate utility payments each month.

#### Resources for Families:

Northwest Justice Project: Advocates who can help if families feel they are not receiving the benefits they qualify for, or if they feel they are being treated unfairly.

[Contact Northwest Justice Project](#)

Family Food Hotline: Experts in community resources; call 1-800-322-2588

[Contact Parenthelp123/Family Food Hotline](#)

## WHAT'S COMING UP

### ***Monthly FHI Stakeholder Information Session - now combined with FHC Feedback Sessions!***

The Family Homelessness Initiative staff host monthly information sessions on the 3rd Wednesday of the month to talk with local stakeholders (providers and funders) about the work of the Initiative. This is an opportunity to hear about current projects, what is coming up next, to ask questions and provide input. Also, the FHC Feedback Meetings, which are an opportunity for service providers and partners to hear updates on new policies/procedures at FHC and to provide FHC with feedback, will directly follow the Info Session each month.

**The next FHI Info Session** will be held on Wednesday, September 17 from 9:00-10:00am at the 2100 Building, Room A, immediately followed by the **next FHC Feedback Meeting** from 10:00-11:00am.

Contact Triina Tennelo at [triina.tennelo@kingcounty.gov](mailto:triina.tennelo@kingcounty.gov) or visit the Initiative website for more information on the Info Session or Emily Harris-Shears at [EmilyHS@ccsww.org](mailto:EmilyHS@ccsww.org) for more information on the FHC Feedback Meetings.

## CONTACT US

If you have questions about any of the above updates, or if you would like to add any announcements to future monthly emails, you can contact Michelle Valdez at [michelle.valdez@cehkc.org](mailto:michelle.valdez@cehkc.org).

Visit our website to learn more about the Family Homelessness Initiative or to locate any of the documents referenced in this email at [www.kingcounty.gov/familyhomelessness](http://www.kingcounty.gov/familyhomelessness).

### **Please feel free to contact FHI staff for more information at:**

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***For more information on the Committee to End Homelessness (CEH) or to see the most recent monthly newsletter, go to the website at [www.cehkc.org](http://www.cehkc.org)***